

METHOD OF PROCEDURE IN CASES OF SUSPECTED POISONING.

LABORATORY OF THE N. C. EXPERIMENT STATION,
CHAPEL HILL, April 24th, 1878.

*To the Coroners and County Superintendents of Health of the
State of North Carolina :*

I beg to call attention to Section 14 of "An Act Supplemental to an Act creating a State Board of Health," passed by the late Assembly and ratified on March 14th. This Section is as follows :

"SEC. 14. When the County Superintendent of Health shall, in the course of his investigation required at coroner's inquest, think it necessary to subserve the ends of justice that a chemical analysis of the *viscera* or fluids of the body be made, he shall carefully pack up and seal the suspected article in a proper receptacle, in the presence of a witness, and forward it to the chemist of the agricultural station for analysis. (Such analysis shall be made free of charge, and be returned to the coroner of the county, such analysis having precedence over other matters of investigation not of a similar character, then in the laboratory of the chemist.)"

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The Board of Agriculture, recognizing not only the claims of the law but the claims of humanity upon them, have made arrangements by which the analyses in question can be made through the Experiment Station. Knowing that were I compelled to make such analysis in person, it would occasion great delay and serious interference with my work, especially during my long absences from my post when testifying at Court, &c., they adopted the following resolution :

"*Resolved*, That the Chemist of the Board be authorized to employ such additional labor as may be necessary to